

Remarks & Arguments

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that Claims 32-62 are pending in the application, Claims 32-37 and 47-62 are withdrawn, and that Claims 39-46 are rejected. Applicants note for the record that Claim 38 has also previously been withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 39-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,218,708 to Burr. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims .

With regard to **Claim 1**, the Office refers to Burr to support the assertion that Burr teaches “the Vnw (nwell voltage) is the same, since Vnw is split from Vdd and is coupled to the n well, thus called nwell voltage (Vnw)” and “Vpw is split from gnd and is coupled to p material, thus called Vpw (See Figs 1 and 2). The applicants respectfully disagree with the Office’s position, and suggest that Burr does not support the Office’s assertion.

First, Figures 1 and 2 in Burr do not show a deep n well (e.g. conductive subsurface layer). Second, Burr discloses, with respect to Figures 1 and 2, that the “well contact” is split off from the “source terminal” and not that the nwell voltage (Vnw) is split off from the supply voltage (Vdd) (e.g., principal operating voltage) or that the pwell voltage (Vpw) is split off from the ground voltage (col. 2, lines 30-43). Instead, Burr discloses, as is well known by those skilled in the art, that the back bias voltages (Vnw, Vpw) are potentials that are separate and

distinct from the supply and ground potentials. Burr even provides a good description of why the back bias potentials (Vpn, Vpw) are separate and distinct from the supply and ground potentials (Vdd, gnd) at col. 1, line 50 through col. 2, line 17.

Burr specifically discloses a deep n-well region (e.g., conductive subsurface layer 309) that is coupled only to the nwell voltage (Vnw) (Figure 3; col. 4, line 19 through col. 5, line 44). Accordingly, Burr does not teach or suggest a deep n-well region that is coupled to the principal operating voltage (Vdd).

For each of the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 39 is patentable over Burr. Accordingly, Applicants request that the anticipation rejection of Claim 39 be withdrawn and that Claim 39 be allowed.

Claims 40-46 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on respective base Claim 39, as well as the additional elements they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the anticipation rejection of Claims 40-46 be withdrawn and that Claims 40-46 be allowed.

Conclusion

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

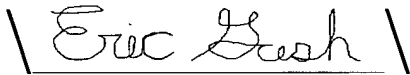
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 23-0085. In the

Appl. No. 10/808,225
Amdt. Dated 11/13/06
Reply to Office Action of 9/11/06

event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 13, 2006

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